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ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION - LIVERPOOL

February 8, 1962

My first visit to Liverpool was most unlike the present one. The year was 1918; I was a sergeant in the American Army. Our field artillery battalion had been tossing about in the Atlantic Ocean for three weeks, on a 4,000-ton freighter, before we made landfall here. During the voyage, our food supplies had been exhausted, and it was a hungry lot of men who disembarked on your wharve

After a quayside breakfast of bread and coffee, we were told we were to go to a rest camp. This conjured up pleasant expectations. We set forth, and marched 18 miles to an encampment in the country. The next morning, we fell in at daybreak, and walked back to Liverpool. There we entrained for the South of England, walked 15 miles to another rest camp, and left the following day for France.

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It was some years before I again saw your city, but that time, as on successor occasions, under the happiest of auspices.

I am delighted, and honored, to be the guest tonight of the English Speaking Union. The bond of a common language is only one of the elements that unite the members of this organization through its far-flung centers and branches. The E.S.U. has been in a position to influence, in a marked and useful fashion, the strengthening of that understanding between English speaking peoples so essential to the preservation and advancement of the political, moral, and other standards they share in common.

In a world confused and endangered by the discovery of the secrets of nuclear fission, disturbed by revolutions in science and industry, by the attempt of Communism to impose its dark doctrine on all men, by fundamental changes

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February 12, 1962 - Monday

Krushchev has rejected the proposal made by President Kennedy and the Prime Minister for a meeting of the three Foreign Ministers before the Disarmament Conference to be held at Geneva March 14. This was an attempt largely inspired by the Prime Minister to have a high level discussion of tests, and disarmament.
Instead, Krushchev has suggested a Summit meeting of the 18 Chiefs of State of those nations to be represented at the Disarmament Conference.

I read with great sorrow of the sudden death of Lord Birkett. He was 78 years old. I saw him twice last week, and he seemed in perfect health. He was a charming and unusually talented man.

I have a further statement of courtesies and services rendered to American visitors, not resident in London, from July 1 to September 30, 1961. This did not include work done in our Consulates.

We have been working over a reply to a Circular from the State Department, recommending that the Chief of Mission or Deputy Chief of Mission should meet all Congressmen upon their arrival at airports, and finally sent a reply in the following terms.

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The wind last night in some parts of England blew at the rate of 120 miles an hour, and caused widespread damage. Our lawn is littered with tree branches this morning.

The Ambassador of Costa Rica, Dr. Don Alfredo Alfaro Sotela, paid a return call on me. He is leaving his post in two months, to return home and resume his practice as a surgeon.

I met the Vice Chancellor of Southampton University, Dr. D. G. James, in De Myers' office this morning. He spoke of the affection with which the inhabitants of Southampton regarded our Consul General, Grady and his wife. Grady is retiring shortly.

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